

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 AID-05 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

STR-07 /068 W

-----119478 140929Z /21

R 121800Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1349

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 1909

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ICCA, GB

SUBJECT: MEETING OF COCOA PRODUCERS OPENS IN LIBREVILLE

REF: LIBREVILLE 1783

1. THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ALLIANCE OF COCOA PRODUCERS
OPENED JULY 10 AT LIBREVILLE'S PALAIS DES CONFERENCES, ATTENDED
BY DELEGATIONS FROM TEN MEMBER STATES AND TWO OBSERVERS
(MEXICO AND VENEZUELA). SESSIONS WILL CONCLUDE JULY 14. RENE
RADIMBO CONIQUET, REPRESENTING PRESIDENCY, PRESIDED AT OPENING
CEREMONY IN ABSENCE OF GABONESE MINISTER OF FINANCE JEROME
OKINDA.

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2. IN ADDRESS BEFORE OPENING SESSION, RADIMBO CONIQUET SAID
GABON FOLLOWED POLICIES OF ALLIANCE WITH INTEREST AND TOOK
NOTE OF SERIOUSNESS AND CARE WITH WHICH DECISIONS WERE TAKEN.
HE THANKED DELEGATIONS FOR ACCEPTING INVITATION TO HOLD
MEETING IN GABON WHICH SERVED TO REINFORCE TIES AMONG COCOA
PRODUCING COUNTRIES. ON BEHALF OF GOG, WHICH HAS BEEN MEMBER

OF ALLIANCE SINCE 1975, HE REAFFIRMED FAITH IN ALLIANCE WHICH HE TERMED A MAJOR EFFORT TO REVALUE EFFORTS OF PLANTERS AND THEIR PRODUCTION.

3. RADIMBO CONIQUET SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO RENEGOTIATE THE 1975 ACCORD WHICH FAVORED CONSUMER COUNTRIES. PRICE FLUCTUATIONS AND UNSTABLE MARKET FOR COCOA DISFAVORED PRODUCERS. HE PROPOSED A NEW, SIMPLE AND PRACTICAL ACCORD WHICH WOULD NOT PERMIT A TOTALLY FREE MARKET YET WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE ADEQUATE AND REALISTIC PRICES WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT COSTS OF PRODUCTION.

4. AKOSSOU AMOUZOU, PRESENT CHAIRMAN OF ALLIANCE, RECALLED PROGRESS MADE BY ALLIANCE SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1962 IN AREAS OF RESEARCH, PRODUCTION, AND COMMERCIALIZATION BUT STATED THERE REMAINED MUCH TO DO TO ATTAIN GOAL OF IMPROVING CONDITION OF LIFE OF MILLIONS OF PRODUCERS. HE STRESSED SENSE OF COOPERATION AMONG PRODUCERS BUT POINTED OUT WIDESPREAD USE OF SUBSTITUTES FOR COCOA BUTTER AND COCOA POWDER.

5. HEAD OF NIGERIAN DELEGATION, OHI AIKHOJE, IN SIMILAR VEIN, EXPRESSED PESSIMISTIC OUTLOOK OF ALLIANCE MEMBERS IN VIEW OF ABSENCE OF LINK BETWEEN ACTUAL PRICES AND REALITY. HE THANKED PEOPLE OF GABON FOR FRIENDLY RECEPTION ACCORDED TO HIS DELEGATION IN SPITE OF DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE AND THANKED ALLIANCE SECRETARIAT FOR ITS OUTSTANDING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COCOA, EXPORTERS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIBREV01909
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780288-1019
Format: TEL
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780770/aaaacgrf.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 40684977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LIBREVILLE 1783
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2040296
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING OF COCOA PRODUCERS OPENS IN LIBREVILLE
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EPAP, GB, ICCA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/40684977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014